STATE OF THE DC PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM:

Where We Shine & Where We Struggle

Mayor Anthony A. Williams
Government of the District of Columbia

DC Public Library AT A GLANCE

Created in 1896 by act of Congress

9 member Board of Library Trustees

422 staff persons

Facilities:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library
440,000 sq. ft. Central Library & Administrative
Headquarters – open 63 hrs/wk

21 neighborhood libraries (18,000 sq.ft. avg.)
4 community libraries (1,500 sq. ft. avg.)
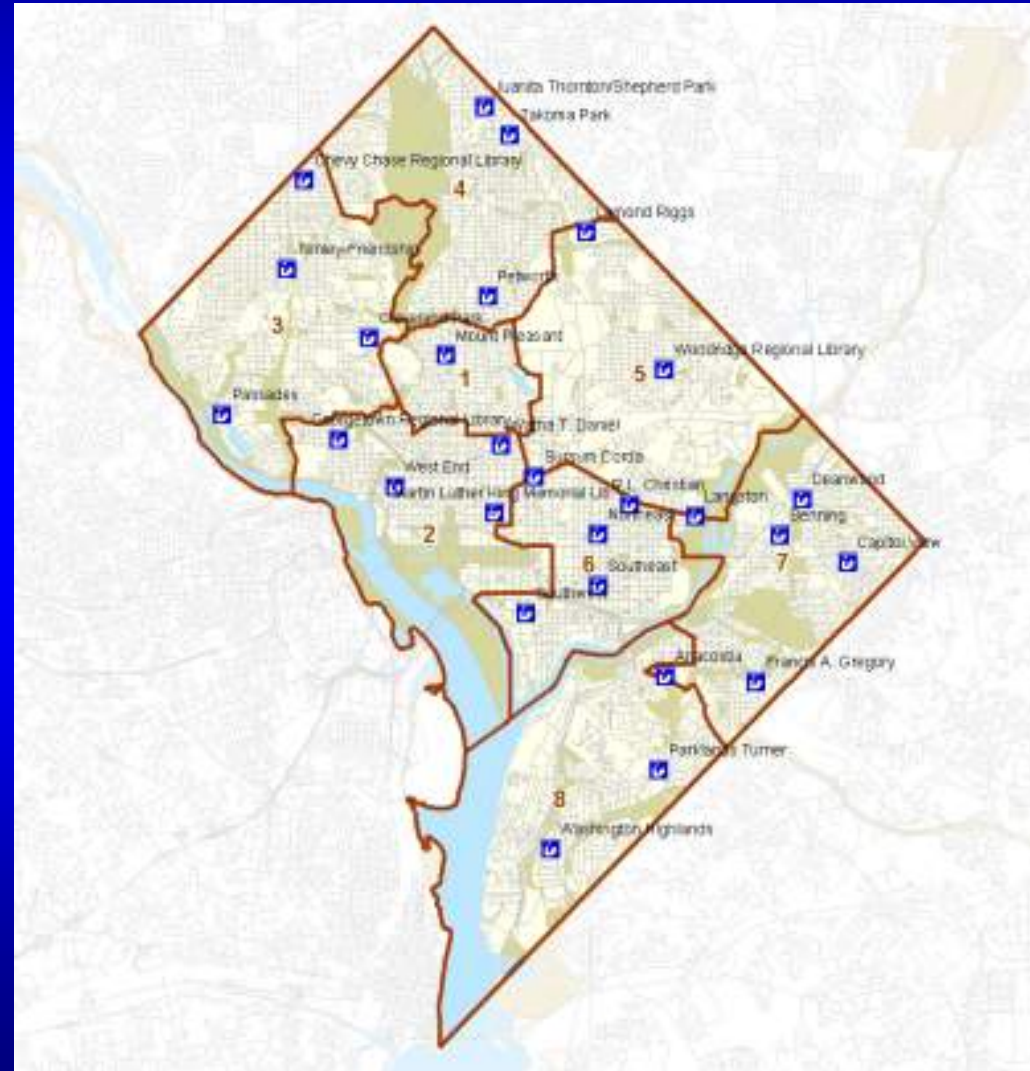1 kiosk – 150 sq. ft.

Each open 40 hrs/wk

Resources: 2,649,693 Books / Serials; 891,513
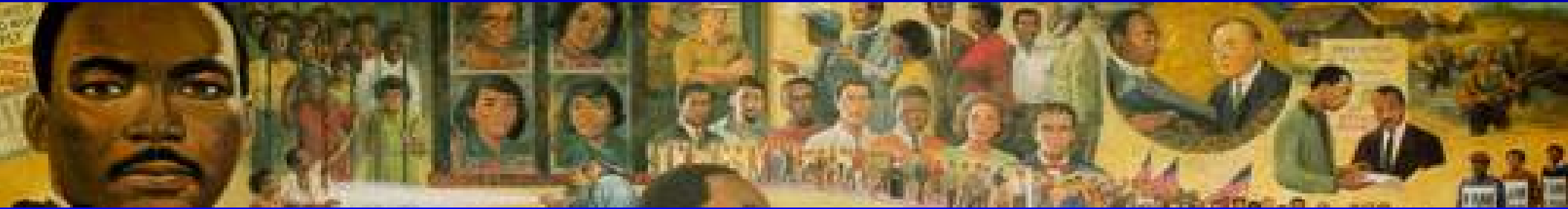of them are juvenile

Technology: 242 Computers For Public Use

Circulation: 1,063,000 items   Visits:
2,022,925

Juvenile program attendance: 161,975

Juvenile Circulation: 394,541

WHERE WE SHINE – Selected Resources

- Washington Star Collection – 1.2 million historical photos
- Comprehensive Musical Score Collection – 1,500 pieces
- Historical 16mm film archives – 2,200 films
- Enhanced Business Information Center (e-BIC)
- Greater Washington College Information Center
- Adult Literacy Resource Center with Tutoring lab
- King Mural attracts thousands of visitors

- Peabody Room @ Georgetown
- CALICO-Southwest (Computer Assisted Literacy Center Lab)
- Health Information Center @ Washington Highlands
- Resources for new Americans – Mount Pleasant Branch

WHERE WE SHINE – Selected Resources

- Services to children, youth & parents

- Literacy clearinghouse

- Assistive technology for the disabled

- Public computer training - 5,000 trained annually

- Popular free meeting space

- Trained & customer-focused library staff

- Virtual Reference, web-based services

- Program support from successful partnerships

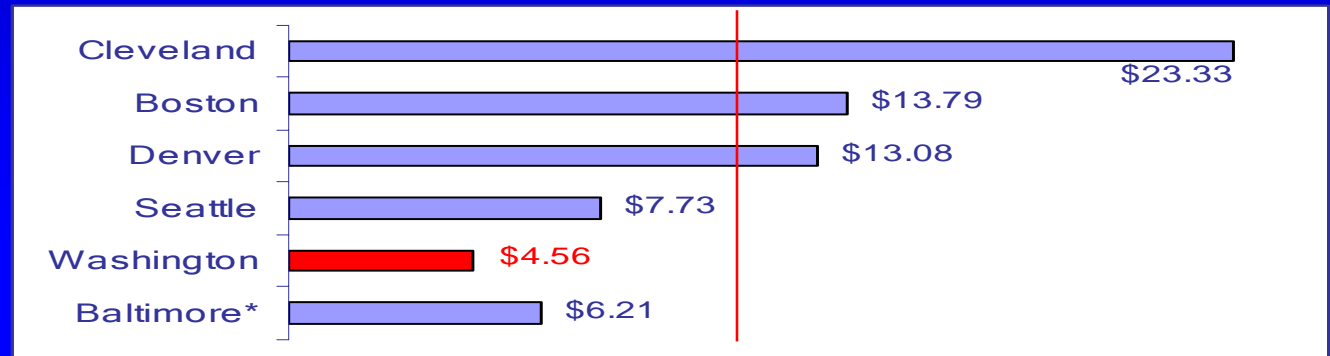- 100+ year history of access for all

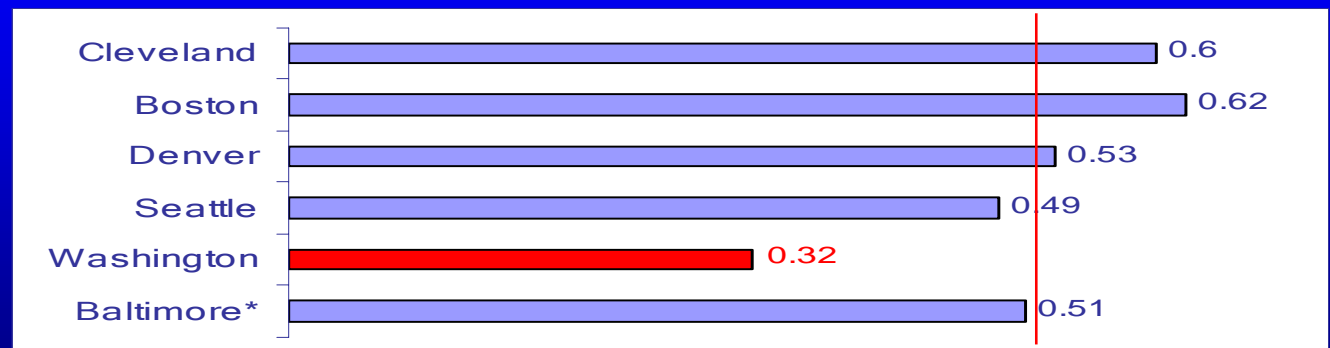# WHERE WE STRUGGLE

- **Undervalued System**
    - Under Investment in books, technology, & staffing
    - Crumbling buildings and deferred maintenance
    - Low customer expectations

- **Disappointing results**
    - Low user rates
    - High Illiteracy
    - Digital divide

DC UNDER-INVESTS IN SYSTEM

Books & Materials Expenditures per capita

City	Expenditure
Cleveland	$23.33
Boston	$13.79
Denver	$13.08
Seattle	$7.73
Washington	$4.56
Baltimore*	$6.21

Public Computers per 1,000 population

City	Value
Cleveland	0.6
Boston	0.62
Denver	0.53
Seattle	0.49
Washington	0.32
Baltimore*	0.51

*Baltimore (Enoch Pratt)

LOW COMPARATIVE SPENDING

Expenditures per capita – Regional Comparison

Location	Amount
Montgomery County	$7.07
Arlington County	$6.72
Fairfax County	$6.57
Prince William County	$5.78
Alexandria County	$5.71
Prince Georges County	$4.85
Washington	$4.56
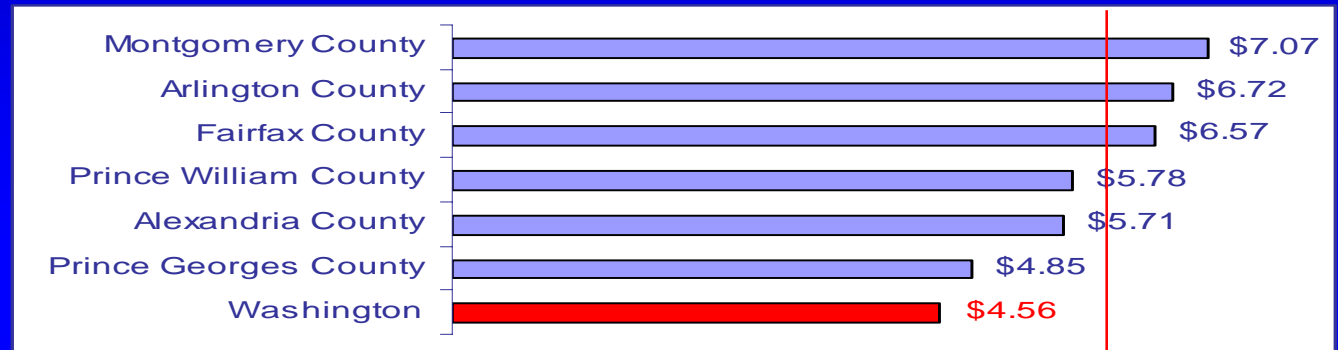
Expenditures per capita – National Comparison

Location	Amount
Cleveland	$105.71
Boston	$71.89
Denver	$67.15
Seattle	$67.00
Washington	$47.61
Baltimore*	$47.01
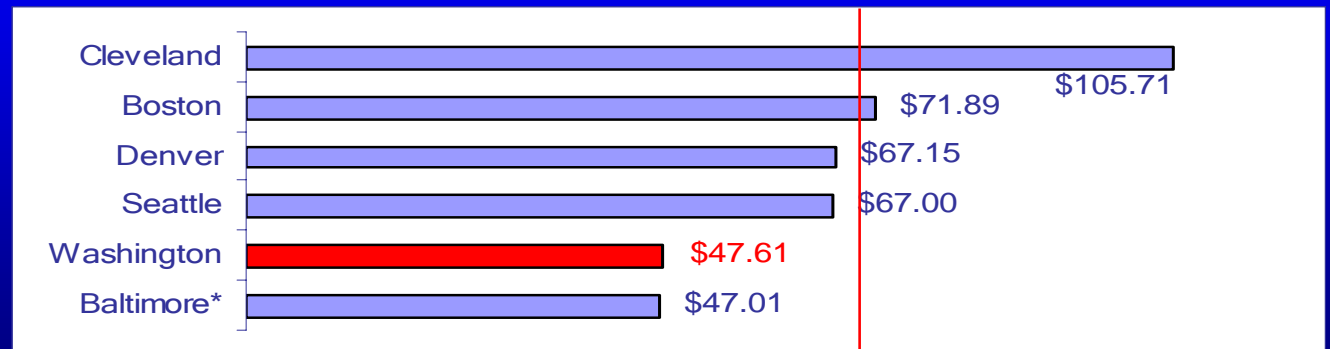
Baltimore (Enoch Pratt)

AN UNDER-RESOURCED SYSTEM

Staff per 1,000 population

City	Staff per 1,000
Cleveland	1.09
Boston	1
Denver	0.69
Seattle	0.79
Washington	0.53
Baltimore*	0.8
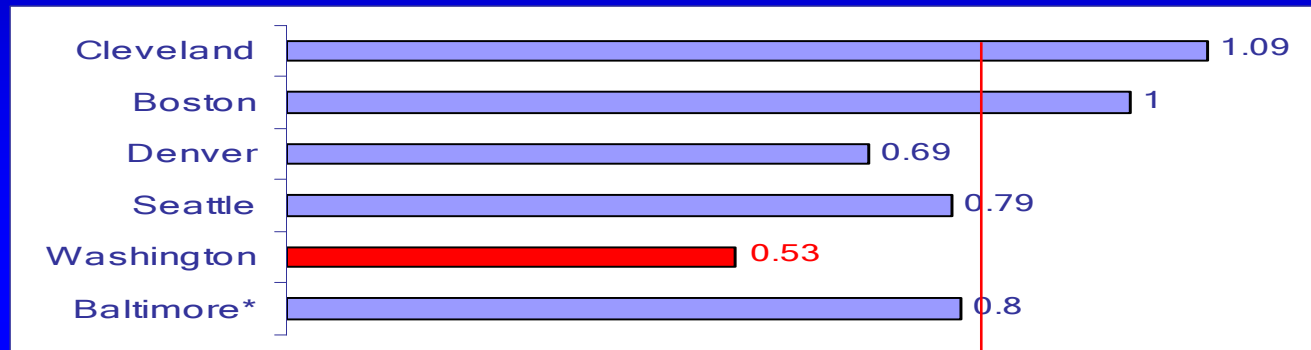
*Baltimore (Enoch Pratt)

Maintenance budget/square foot

	Maintenance budget/sq ft
DC	$1.50
National Average	$4.23

$- $1.00 $2.00 $3.00 $4.00 $5.00
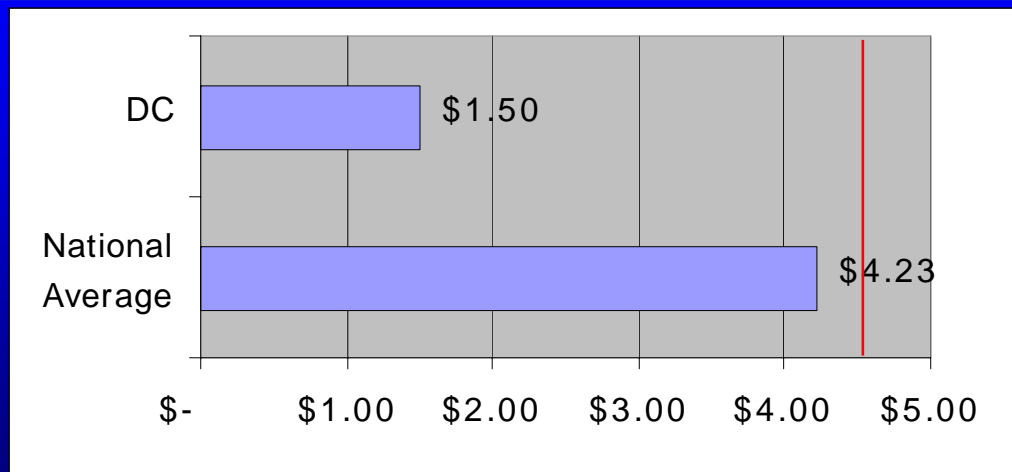
LOW USER RATES

Circulation per capita

City	Value
Cleveland	10.8
Boston	3.9
Denver	22.1
Seattle	10.1
Washington	2.1
Baltimore*	1.9
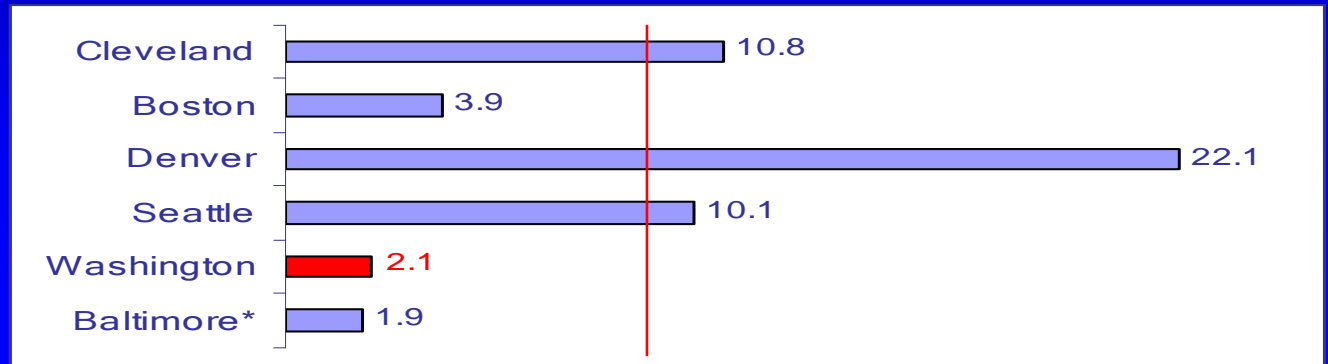
Baltimore (Enoch Pratt)

Weekly Operating Hours

DC	~40
National Average	~66

(scale: 0, 20, 40, 60, 80)
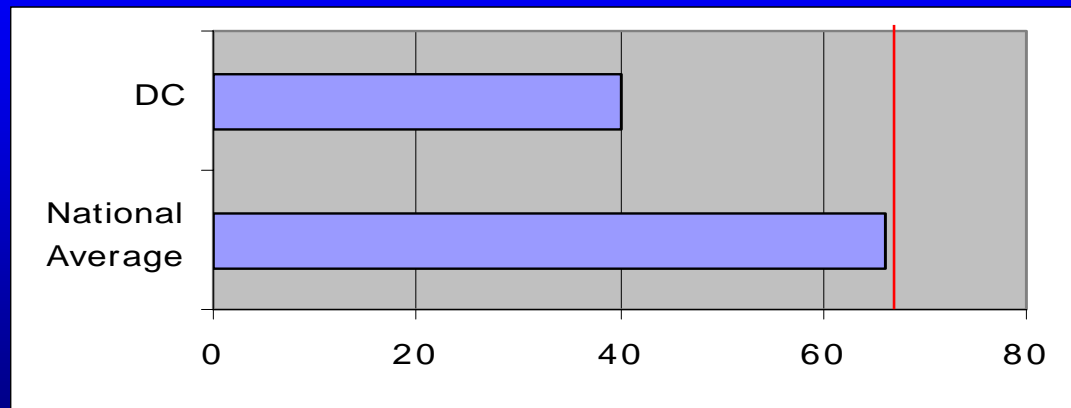
DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

Astronomical deferred maintenance costs, inadequate technology infrastructure, outdated mechanical systems, inefficient space and poorly coordinated service areas have put DCPL's facilities in crisis

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library building is past its useful life; deferred maintenance is in excess of $30 million

- All 21 branch libraries must be either gut-rehabbed or rebuilt; only four branches are currently funded

- Basic ADA and life safety codes must be met on all branches

- Annual Building Maintenance Budget comparison:

Southeast Branch

D.C. Public Library   vs.   U.S. Public Libraries
$1.50 per sq. foot $4.23 per sq. foot

2002 Whitestone Research Building Maintenance & Repair Cost

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. **Renew DC's pride in its public library system & promote it as a vibrant cultural institution – a treasured community asset**

2. **Offer a current & well-maintained collection of books, periodicals & information on various media**

3. **Preserve the city's history**

4. **Support education & community engagement**

5. **Commit to safe, attractive, well-maintained buildings downtown & in each neighborhood**

6. **Integrate information, technology, & modern amenities**

7. **Create a culture of literacy & lifelong learning**

AMBITIOUS GOALS FOR DCPL

By 2010, D.C. residents who need access to the Internet and other electronic resources will get the information they need at the public library:

- Public computers per capita will increase from .3 to .6
- Customers who complete computer training classes will increase from 5,000 today to 7,500

By 2010, DC will experience the public library as a vital part of community life as evidenced by an increase in the following:

- Hours of operation will increase from 40 per week today to 66 per week
- Circulation per capita will increase from 2.1 today to 6.0

By 2010, D.C. children will experience the public library as a necessary component of scholastic readiness:

- Children in grades 1 to 8 who attend programs will increase from 50,000 today to 75,000
- Youth ages 14 to 19 who attend programs will increase from XX today to XX